

A chance to see the world, meet different people

By Pfc. Charlotte L. Guilin

Sentinel Staff

When Spc. Angela Schroeder graduated high school in the small town of Wausau, Wis., she worked odd jobs here and there to make ends meet. Over a period of two years, she worked at a local farming and hardware store and washed linens at the Super 8 Motel and an area retirement home.

"It just wasn't glamorous at all," she said.

Schroeder ran into a friend who had joined the Army six months earlier and had come home on leave. She was impressed by the success her friend seemed to have achieved,



she said.

"I wanted to get out of town," she added.

Schroeder jumped at the chance to see the world, and after quite a few trips to the recruiting station, she enlisted in the Army as a telecommunications operator. Before basic training, she was able to choose her first duty station, Germany.

"Everything was so differ-

ent; you have to learn some of the language just to get around," she said.

In August 2005, she transferred to Fort Hood, where she is now assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Signal Brigade.

Day to day, the most enjoyable aspect of her job is being able to work and interact with different people, she said.

She strives to be a role model for other Soldiers and even on rough days keeps her optimism.

"I really like the Army, it's not that hard," she said. "This is so much easier than jobs I've had outside of the military. Everyone has tough days, but that's everywhere."

As her enlistment term comes to an end, Schroeder plans to reenlist and reclassify as a military intelligence analyst.

Training in this military occupational specialty will allow her to keep a security clearance and make later transitions to the FBI easier, she said.

This particular MOS is in shortage, which means a nice

bonus, Schroeder added.

As she prepares to leave for school at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., Schroeder has come to appreciate the travel and relocation she has experienced thus far. "You're not stuck in one place all the time; you get to see new things and meet new people."

Schroeder's favorite memory of her Army career is actually the time she spent in basic training. Again, she just maintained a positive attitude and had fun, she said.

In the end, this Soldier serves because she believes in making the country safer for all. Young and able, she believes it is her turn to step up to the plate and expects that later generations will do the same.



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